Prem Our Ours Correspondent. WASHINGTON, April 8, 1858. The House at the opening this morning was more

quiet and evidently less anxious than it was en Tsursday last, when the Lecompton bill came up. There was still, however, a good deal of excitement, which manifests itself by the formation of litthe groups in carnest conference in the corners and at the sides of the Hall. The confident tone of the Administration men, and probably certain private intelligence caused a good deal of unexsiness among the Anti-Lecomptonites, who were not perfectly sure what course might be taken by two or three of their number, upon whom the President and his satellites had made an unusual pressure within a day

After an animated contest for an hour and a half, After an animated contest for an hour and a half, principally on the Deficiency bill, Mr. Montgomery of Pennsylvania, a stout, bluff, frank-looking, goodnatured looking man of middle age, rose in his place and asked unanimous consent to take up the Kansas bill. This was the first intimation given to the public that Montgomery, and not Stephens of Georgia, would be allowed the floor. It had been for two or three days a nice question of padaments law. three days a nice question of parliamentary law, much discussed among members, as to which of the two gentlemen was entitled to it. From Mr. Montgomery's rising, while Stephens sat quietly in his seat, it was evident that the Speaker had decided in

his favor.

Ever since the great Keitt fight on the floor, I have noticed that Mr. Orr becomes unusually nerhave noticed that Mr. Orr becomes unusually ner-vous whenever Lecompton comes up. He grasps the reins and tighteus them up with an evident con-sciousness that he has a skittish animal in hand, who, if not held carefully in check, will be likely to break out into unseemly and dangerous antics. His strong Scottish serse of propriety was probably a good deal shocked by the scenes of that night, and be is determined that nothing of the kind shall again occur if he can prevent it. Probably, too, he, more than any other man, is fully aware of the wild schemes and mad designs which occasionally flit across the hot fancies of his excitable Southern associates in contemplation of the defeat of Lecompton-such, for example, as the often-threatened project of in-augurating the revolution which is to end in secession and a slaveholding empire, by a general fight and massacre on the floor. Without apprehending anything quite so tragical as this, Mr. Orr may very reasonably and prudently conclude that vigilance and strictness on his part may prevent disgraceful and perilous outbreaks on the part of individual man here. dividual members. Whenever Lecompton comes up, therefore, he is doubly assiduous in attention to duty. A trifling incident at this juncture evinced his unusual pervousness.

Mr. Montgomery, rising, said—"Mr. Speaker."
The Speaker responded—"The gentleman from Montgomery. There was a general laugh. Mr. Orr, perceiving

his error, repeated, "The gentleman from Mont-Having asked and obtained unanimous consent, Mr. Montgomery proceeded:
"I move that the House ADHERE to its amend-

There was a general buzz. Mr. Clemens of Virginia and Mr. Maynard of Tennessee showed a dissition to fillibuster.

The Speaker rapped energetically.

The Speaker rapped energetically.

Gentlemen will come to order; gentlemen will take their seats; I shall call gentlemen by name if they do not take their seats!"

Slowly the House became quiet. The Yeas and Nays were ordered, the Clerk called the roll, and

member after member answered to their names with much the same result as before, except that when Mr. Bowie of Maryland was called, Humphrey Marshall of Kentucky rose and said that Mr. Bowie was obliged to be absent, and that he had paired off -adding that if he (Marshall) had voted, he should have voted to adhere. Another exception, somewhat significant, and perhaps ominous, was that when English of Indiana and Hall of Ohio were called they did not respond to their names, though at the end, when it was obvious that was beaten, both came forward and voted to adhere.

The case was announced without causing much apparent sensation, except among the newspaper correspondents, who rushed in a body to the telegraph to communicate the news to their respective journals. The usual motion to reconsider and lay upon the table was made, and the House proceeded quietly to the discussion of the Deficiency bill on a

THE ATTACK ON SECRETARY THOMPSON. The Washington Star contains the fe count of the attack upon the Secretary of the Interior:

"This forenoon, at about 10 o'clock, Mr. Peter Besancon, jr., of Louisiana, late a clerk in the Pension Office, called on the Secretary of the Interior in the Department, and in answer to his inquiries was informed by that functionary, as the reason why he was formed by that functionary, as the reason why he was dropped last year, that he was not reported among the efficient clerks when, under the law, it became necessary to reduce the clerical force of the Pension Bureau. Besancon then told the Secretay that whoever reported him to be inefficient was a damned har; and the Secretary told him ne could have no further conversation with him on the subject, as it was not proper that he should listen to such abuse of the officers of his department. Turning to leave him, Besancon followed him, (the Secretary), exclaining, "I demand to know who was your informant t" when Secretary Thompson again declined to converse with him upon the subject. Besancon then instantly struck him a violent blow behind the ear as he (Secretary Thompson) was walking away.

"The Secretary, turning instantly, discovered Besancon in the act of drawing a revolver, and seizing him so as to pinion his arms to his side, threw him to the floor with such force as to dislocate his (Besan-

sancon in the act of drawing a revolver, and setzing him so as to pinion his arms to his side, threw him to the floor with such force as to dislocate his (Besancon's) shoulder, and, we believe, break his arm also—the Secretary falling heavily on him, and preventing him from cocking his revolver by seizing his hand and holding it. The bystanders had time to interfere and wrench the weapon from Besancou's hand, where upon Secretary Thompson released him, and he was taken up and placed in an adjoining room for safe keeping by those who had rushed to the scene of the occurrence.

wrience.
Secretary Thompson has made out an order for admission to the Washington Infirmary for surgical treatment.
"It seems to us that the attempt on his life must

have been the result of the derangement of Besancon, whose mind has for some time past been somewhat unsettled through his domestic difficulties.

"Dr. Rhett of South Carolins, who happened to be present, promptly set the dislocated shoulder."

NOTE FROM MR. BESANCON.

NOTE FROM MR. BESANCON.

Te the Editor of The Union.

A difficulty having occurred between the Hon. Jacob Thompson and myself, it is probable that rumors may be circulated not sustained by facts. I therefore ask the use of your columns to say that Mr. Thompson and myself have for years been on friendly terms—from the period I published a daily journal in Mississippi and Louisiana to the time of this occurrence: that our meeting then was of a friendly nature: the affair uppremeditated, and the result of misunderstanding. Entertaining these views, no one can regret the difficulty more than myself.

It may be proper to say that I often visited the Department, and was only armed, for self defense, in anticipation of an attack from another quarter.

I trust that you will extend the courtesy asked to disabuse the public mind, if wrong impressions are disseminated.

P. BESANCON.

disseminated. Washington, April 8, 1855.

## THE MAILS TO EUROPE.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. Sin: The Post-Office Department has contracted with a foreign vessel (the British screw steamer Chy of Baltimore) to carry the United States mails to an i from England at sea postage for the round voyage, at the very moment that the American steamship Vac-derbilt, the fleetest and safest steamer in the world, lies in port ready to take the mails on the suns terms. The facts are simply these: Mr. Vanderbilt, while at Washington, last Tuesday, tendered to the Post-Office Department, on their own terms, the use of his steam er, the Vanderbilt, to carry the mails, leaving New-York on April 10 and England on April 28-the regalar mail days-the Collins Line contract having become abrogated. His offer was refused.

The effect of this suicidal action on the part of the Government is to build up foreign shipping on the ruine OVE WHO KNOWS. of American enterprise.

BIOGRAPHY OF COL. BENTON. From The New American Cyclopedia, Vol. 111. To be past THOMAS HART BENTON, an American statesman and Senator for the State of Missouri, was born near H. isborough, Orange County, N. C., March 14, 1782. His father died when he was 8 years old; his early education was imperfect; he was for some time at a grammar school, and afterward at Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina, but finished no course of study there, as his mother removed to Tennessee to settle on a tract of land belonging to his father's estate. The mas studied law, and soon rose to eminence in that profession. He was now elected to the Legislature, serving only a single term, during which he procured the passage of a law reforming the judicial system, and of another giving to slaves the benefit of a jury trial, the same as white men. One of his earliest friends and putrons was Ardrew Jackson, at that time a Judge of the Supreme Court, and subsequently Major-General of the State militis. Benton became his side-de-camp, and durirg the war also mised a regiment of volunteers. It was from that service he derived the title of Colonel, which has clung to him through his. Notwithstanding the close intimacy between Jackson and himself, which was of the most cordial and unreserved character, a rude and sudden rupture took place in which severe pistol and dagger wounds were given, and produced a rencounter that estranged them for many years. After the volunteers were dishanded, Mr. Madison appointed Col. Benton, in 1813, a Lieu tenant-Colonel in the Army, but on his way to serve in canada, in 1814, he heard the news of the peace and resigned. He now removed to Missouri, and took up his abode in the City of St. Louis in 1815. There he devoted himself anew to his profession. Soon, however, engaging in the politics of the day, he was led to the establishment of a newspaper entitled The Missouri Argus. In this position he was involved in many disputes and contentions. Duels were usual at that time, and he had his share of them with their unbappy consequences, in one of them, which was forced in many disputes and contentions. Duess were truct at that time, and he had his share of them with their unhappy consequences. Inone of them, which was forced upon him, he killed his opponent, Mr. Lucas—an even he deeply regretted, and all the private papers relating to which he has destroyed. His journal took a strong and vigorous stand in favor of the admission of Missouri, notwithstanding her Slavery Constitution, and when the angry controversy was terminated he warewarded for his labors by being chosen one of the first Senstors from the new State. It is from this period, 1820, that his political history and the great influence he has exerted upon public affairs may be said to date. A man in the early prime of life, possessed of a commanding intellect, of large and liberal culture, an assiduous student, industrious, temperate, resolute and endowed with a memory whose tenacity was marvelous, he soon placed hinself in the front rank of those who shaped the councils of the nation. As a representative of the West with the manifold interests of a frontier population intrusted to his care, Col. representative of the West with the manifold interests of a frontier population intrusted to his care, Col. Benton forthwith devoted himself to securing a reform in the land system of the General Government. A pioneer himself in early life, he sympthized with the demands of that class, and his familiarity with the administration of government taught him how fallacious and suicidal was the policy of attempting to derive a revenue from such a source. The general distress which prevailed throughout the country in 1829, and which bore with especial hardship upon the land purchasers of the West, attracted attention to this subject, and afforded cause for the initiative which was taken by Congress m libralizing the system. A measure of relief devised by Mr. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, changing all future sales to the cash basis, reducing the price to \$1,25 per agree, and allowing a dislief devised by Mr. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, changing all future sales to the cash basis, reducing the price to \$1 25 per acre, and allowing a discount equal to the difference to former purchasers, afforded material relief. But this was not all that was needed. First, a preemptive right to all actual settlers; secondly, a periodic reduction according to the time sections had been in market, so as to make the prices correspond with the quality; and thirdly, the donation of homesteads to impoverished but industrious persons who would cultivate the soil for a given period of years, and thereby developed the resources of the country—these were all points essential to the needed reform. Col. Benton apprehended the full scope of these changes, and determined to persist in urging them until they should be accomplished. The years 1824, 1826, 1828, accordingly found him doing battle for such amelioration of the entire system. A bill embracing these features was moved by him and renewed annually until it at last took hold upon the public mind. At first his speeches attracted more attention throughout the country than in Congress, for there his efforts were counteracted by schemes for dividing the public lands or the proceeds of their asles among the States. His firmness and poin Congress, for there his efforts were counteracted by schemes for dividing the public lands or the proceeds of their sales among the States. His firmness and position in the Senate as a supporter of the Administration of Jackson, gave him great weight with that party, and he was thus enabled so far to impress his views upon the President that they were embodied in one of his messages, and from that date the ultimate triumph of land reform became only a question of time. In his own State of Missouri, there were large quantities of saline and mineral lands, which it had been the object of the General Government to withdraw from sale and firm and mineral lands, which it had been the object of the General Government to withdraw from sale and farm out. This injurious monepoly was also aimed at in his measures, and he succeeded in effecting a change which threw all open to occupancy. Intimately blended with the same subject, and moved by the same considerations, were the efforts which he began during the first term of his Senatorial service, to effect a repeal of the imposts upon all necessaries of life. These duties bore with great hardship upon the population of the Valley of the Mississippi. It was a tribute levied upon them in part to sustain Government and in part to protect special interests. In some cases this was most unequal as well as oppressive, and we may cite the sait tax as one that at that time met with more hostility than any other. During the session of 18:23-30, Col. Benton delivered the first elaborate argument against this burden upon a prime necessary, and afterward followed it up in such a manner as to effect its repeal. In directing adventure to explorations in the far West, in fixing the attention of Government upon the early occupancy of the mouth of the Columbia, in encouraging overland transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Col. Benton was also prominent. He had previously devoted himself to these subjects and written largely upon them in 1819, and no sooner had he taken his seat in the Senate than he made direct efforts to engage Congress and the tribute levied upon them in part to sustain Government and no sooner had be taken his seat in the Senate than he made direct efforts to engage Congress and the public in the great enterprise. From the researches of Clark and Rogers, from the suggestions of Jefferson, from reports of trappers and voyageurs, and from the courses of the continental streams, he first elaborated the project of overland connection: and as science expanded, and knowledge of the intervaning wilderness became more definite, he views took form in the proposals which are now so largely occupying public attention for a great central railway. The route urged by him as preferable to all others is through the passes of the Rocky Mountains discovered by Fremont, known as the Coochetope, and debouching upon California through gaps in the Sierra Nevada. For many years he was the leading advocate and support in the Senate of the whole scheme of Western exploration. It will thus be seen that Col. Benton became, almost at the outset of his career, the exponent of Western interests, and though largely participating in all the great measures and political straggles in all the great measures and political struggles that separated parties, he never neglected what was due to his own immediate constituency. The success which has already attended land reform, the establishment of preemption, the graduation of price, the denations to works of public improvement, all trace their origin to his continuous labors. In subordination to these leading objects, he likewise did muc to open up and protect the trade with New-Mexico, t to open up and protect the trade with New-Mexico, to encourage the establishment of military stations on the Missouri and throughout the interior, to cultivate anicable relations with Indian tribes, and to favor the commerce of our inland seas that now bear such a wealth of freights. The marking out of post-roads, and securing appropriations for their maintenance was especially a work of his own undertaking, and its benefit has been deeply felt in every branch of Western trade. Upon the wider theater of nationa politics the career of Col. Benton was equally remarkable. In the currency disputes which attended the expiration of the charter of the Bank of the United States, the recharter afterward, and the final veto remarkable. In the currency disputes which attended the expiration of the charter of the Bank of the United States, the recharter afterward, and the final veto message of Jackson, Col. Benton addressed himself to a consideration of the whole question of finance, circulating medium and exchange, and brought forward his propositions for a gold and silver currency as the true remedy for existing emburn and exchange, and the only rightful medium for government disbursements and receipts. Upon this subject he made many of the most elaborate speeches of his life—speeches that betray great recearch, a close study of himnee, and a full knowledge of the evils that so often attend expanded paper issues. In Europe, as well as tention, and extended widely his reputation as a debater, a thinker, and a practical statesman. At this time his manner of oratory was deliberate and unimpassioned, his matter full to overflowing with facts, figures, logical deduction, and historical illustration; but almost wholly devoid of that exuberance of wit and raciness of humor which he gave to the sub-Treasury system, which was eventually adopted. It was from the financial finance, and did much to consolidate the sentiment of the Democratic party in favor of the Sub-Treasury system, which has evertually adopted. It was from the financial policy which be thus enunciated that he derived the sobriquet of "Old Bullion," which has ever forsaken him, and which,

aled, he never foreook. Throughout the long and critical struggle between the Administration of Jackson and the advocates of the recharter of the National Gank, he was the mainstay and support of the President in the Senarte, and acting in strictest unity with his party, held high place in their affection and confidence. The records of his labora in that bhalf will be found upon almost every page of the debates of Congress. As the mover of the "expunging recolutions," Col. Benton made himself especially achieved ancress, and gained a great personal trumph. The motion was to strike from the journals of the Senate a resolution of censure upon Gen. Jackson. amph. The motion was to strike from the journals of the Senate a resolution of censure upon Gen. Jacksot, and the passion of partisans clothed the contest with an importance at the time far greater than will attach to it in the future; but as an exhibition of many traits of Col. Benton's character, persistency, keen agacious ir sight, stubborn devolin to the fame of his party chief, unqualing courage, and confidence of success in the face of an adverse majority, no at of his life was more striking. During the succeeding Administration of Mr. Van Buren, much of Col. Benton's time was devoted to the defense of the new tinancial policy, then being inaugurated. Upon the questions relating to the Oregon boundary, the annexation of Texas, and various other important matters growing out of our foreign relations between the Presidential terms of Tyler and Taylor, Col. Benton took a leading and influential part. On the first of those he differed from the Democratic Administration of Mr. Polk, which had declared for the line of 54° 40°, but the powerful effort of Col. Benton, in which he reviewed the whole controversy, and clucidated the claims of the United States with much force, was not to be withstood, and the Administration and party were content to acquiesce in his views, and accept the line of 49° as the northern boundary. During the Mexican war, also, his services, and intimate acquientance with the Spanish provinces of the Suth, to whose history he had devoted much attention, proved most useful to the Government. It was upon his suggestion that the policy of "masterly inactivity," at first determined upon by the President, was inally abandened, and a vigorous prosecution of the war urged in its stead. His counsels were much umph. The motion was to strike from the journals of the Senate a resolution of censure upon Gen. Jackson and the passion of partisans clothed the contest with at ity, at first determined upon by the President, was finally abandoned, and a vigorous prosecution of the war urged in its stead. His counsels were arch sought also in regard to maturing a plan of cam paign and conquest for compelling a peace, and at one time it was proposed by President Police to cotfer upon him the title of licetenant-general moder than at one time it was proposed by President Polk to confer upon him the title of licatemant-general with full command of the war, in order that he might carry out his conceptions in person Tree project, however, was never consummated. The bill creating the rank of leutenant general passed the House, but was defeated in the Senate. The acquisition of Mexican territory brought on disputes in Congress touching the question, of Slavery, which, after threatening the peace of the country, were adjusted by the Compromise acts of 1850. Col. Benton opposed this Compromise, offered by Mr. Clay, as being a vicious system of legislation, as fraudulent in regard to the Texas donation, and as defective and ill judged in its clause in regard to the Fugitive Slave law. The acts, however, though defeated as a whole, passed separately. In the violent repture which had taken place between Gen. Jackson and Mr. Calhoun, and which made its mark upon parties as well as persons, Col. Benton had warmly espoused the side of the former at the very outset. Shortly previous to that, the doctrine of nullification had first been broached at a diener party in celebration of the birthday of Mr. Jefferson, receiving an endorsement from Mr. Calhoun, and meeting with strong rebuke from Gen. Jackson. After the rupture, political antagonism hightened the animosity of the parties, and nullification assumed threatening proportions in the actimonious disputes growing out of the tariff regulations. Col. Benton, in his close affiliation with the Administration, became the leading Democratic exponent of Mr. Calhoun upon this question in the in the actimentous deputes growing out the actiments and the leading Democratic opponent of Mr Calhoun upon this question in the Sanate, and the divergence which then manifested itself grew and widened as years progressed, and was the fruitful cause of a life-iong hostility and opposition between them. The adjustment, however, was incomplete, and the compromise of 1833 proved to be only a lull in the storm. The same views in regard to State Rights reappeared in the field of politics in connection with the far more complicated question of domestic Slavery. This was manifested first in the conflict in the House of Representatives in 1835, upon the discussion of Abolition petitions, but the action of that body suppressed the cause of strife, and it was not until 1846-7, that the same policy was renewed. The principles sought to be enforced were admitted to be identical with those of the first nullification movement; the causes assigned and the machinery for enforcement were different. Although representing a identical with those of the first nullification movement; the causes assigned and the machinery for enforcement were different. Although representing a Slave State, Col. Benton did not on account of the subject-matter involved deviate from the positions he had maintained on former occasions. At the earliest announcement of the new programme in the Senate of the United States he stood forth to the attack. It was the beginning of a warfare that was eventually to prostrate himself at home, and drive him from the seat he had so long filled in the Senate. On February 19, 1847, Mr. Calhoun introduced a set of resolutions in the Senate, declaring the dostrines he wished to insist upon in regard to the Territorial powers of Congress, the admission of States, and the use of common property, all bearing directly upon the Slavery question, and the exciting issues that had been evoked by the proposed restriction known as the "Wilmot Proviso," which required the exclusion of Slavery from all new territory to be acquired by the United States. They were immediately denounced by Colorel Benton as "fire-brand resolutions." Mr. Calhoun expressed his surprise, stating he had expected the support of Colonel Benton, as he was from a Slave State. Col. Benton responded, "I shall be found in the right place—on the sade of my country and the Union." The resolutions never came to a vote, but they were sent to the Legislature of every Slave State, were adopted by some of them, and became the basis of after-conflict and party organization. It was determined by their author to make them the grounds of instructions to Senators in Concame the basis of after-conflict and party organization. It was determined by their author to make
them the grounds of instructions to Senators in Congress, and for this purpose they were sent to Missouri, and confided to the hands of Democrats in
the Legislature unfriendly to Col. Benton's reelection. Without exciting inquiry, and under the
sanction of leading members of the party
whose feality was not then suspected, they
were passed in both branches and sent to
Washington. Col. Benton no sconer received
the instructions than he denounced them as not
being expressive of the sense of the people, as containing disunion doctrines, and as designed to produce
an eventual separation of the States. He announced the instructions than he denounced them as not being expressive of the sense of the people, as containing dismulon doctrines, and as designed to produce an eventual separation of the States. He announced that he would appeal from the Legislature to the people, and immediately after the adjournment of Congress returned to Missouri for that purpose. He began the canvass of the State, and prosecuted it in every section in a series of speeches, which, for bitterness of denunciation, strength of exposition, and caustic wit, have scarcely their equal in the English language. The Whig party of the State at first sustained his position, but finding a prospect of reaping a triumph of their own from the divisions of the Democracy, they changed froit, and affiliated with the "Anties," as the Democratic opponents of Col. Benton were called. The result in 1819 50 was the return of a Legislature largely Democratic, but composed of opposite wings, the Benton men being in the plurality. Many beliotings for Senator were had without compromise; but a bargain was at length struck between Whigs and Anties, and sixteen of those chosen by the people as Democrats, but unifiendly to Col. Benton, voted for Henry S. Geyer, who was elected. Mr. Geyer was a Whig, but had committed himself to the Anti-Benton party in a letter prior to his election. Mary of his party following his lead, they soon coalesced with the opposition Democrats, and in after campaigus, by advort management, they obtained control of the S ate (overnment. This was called) effected through the instrumentality of Mr. Sterling Price, who allowed he at first gave a warm supporter of the views of Col. Benton, yet, after a pretended compromise of the two Democratic wings, was no sconer swern into office thate he changed over to the opposition. In the Session that followed he at first gave a warm support and the Administration in turn making a war upon him displaced from office all his friends throughout Missouri. Soon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was mooted, and be

their own party. Mr. Trusten Polk (National Democrat) was thereby elected by a triffing plonality. The result of Col. Benton's canvass, however, was to restore, in a great measure, the conservative fieling of the State, and to prepare the way for a more liberal policy upon all domestic subjects. His friends up to the hour of election were sanguize of his success. He himself was never so, but felt himself sulp repaid for all his tool by the impress he had make apon public opinion, and the reaction he had effected against disunion polities. In the Presidential election of November, 1856, Col. Benton supported Mr. Buchanan in opposition to his own an india, Col. Fremont. The resion assigned by him was a contidence that Mr. Buchanan, if elected, would restore the principles of the Jackson Administration, and the apprehension that the success of Col. Fremont would engender sectional parties fatal to the permanence of the Union. He soon after say our asson to change both opinions, and although in retirement, he zealously opposed the Administration of Buchanan and inclined to unite with the opposition that presented itself in the Republican party. After his defeat in 1856, Col. Benton devoted his time again to literary pursuits. Even before that time he had begun his "Thirty Years' View" of the working of the Government. This was completed and published in New-York in 1854. It is a retrospect of the period during which he held a seat in the Senate of the United States, and presents a connected ascrative of the times from Adams to Pierce, developing much of the secret history of the men and politics of the foundation of the Government to the present time. In this work, although at the advanced age of 76, his foundation of the Government to the present time. In this work, although at the advanced age of 76, his geged in the still more laborious task of condensing, revising and abridging the debates of Congress from the foundation of the Government to the present time. In this work, although at the advanced age of 76, his daily labors were almost incredible, and such as few men in the prime of manly life could support. This was accomplished in great part by means of a robust constitution, temperate habits, regular exercise, and daily resort to the cold bath. His health was still as perfect, his mind as unimpaired, and his interest in passing events as absorbing as ever. He also wrote, in an interval of leisure, a raview of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dead Scatt Case, which has attracted great attention. With a strong, industrious intellect, a dominating character, and quick appreciation of men. Col. Beaton exercised a preminent influence upon national affairs. In Missouri his power was at one time boundless, and throughout the West he molded public opinion to his all for many years. While afhering to strict party lines, he was able to effect almost everything he at tempted, and often standing forth alone he drew his party with him, against the will of presidents and cobinets. In his last attempt of this kind, however, he failed, and was forced to relinquish office as a consequence. cobinets. In his last attempt of this kind, however, be failed, and was forced to relinquish office as a consequence; but this crowning struggle was a testin only to his independence and sense of duty that will contribute no less to his fame with posterity than the honors which he received through party silegiance. Col. Benton was married, after becoming Senator, to Elizabeth, daughter of Col. James McDowell of Rockbridge County, Va. His surviving children are four daughters—Mrs. William Carey Jones, Mrs. Ann Benton Fremont, Mrs. Sarah Benton Jacob, and Madame Susan Benton Boileau, now at Calcutta, wife of the French Consui-General. Mrs. Beston died in 1854, having been struck with paralysis in 1844, and from the time of that calcuity her husband was never known to go to any place of festivity or antacement.

## KANSAS.

From Our Special Correspondent. LEAVENWORTH, K. T., March 31, 1858. The Constitutional Convention is proceeding in its work of framing a Constitution with more than usual rapidity. For the last two days they have worked with zeal as if they had the task of making a Constitution by the job. Without wishing to impugn their self-sacrificing spirit, which is quite as great as it should be, and probably greater than they can afford, it is still very evident that the best mode of expediing legislative action is to reduce the members to the necessity of paying their own expenses. Last night the Convention remained in session until after midnight. It was, indeed, 24 o'clock before it adjourned. Two thirds of the reports have already been read and adopted. The reports have all been submitted. The last of them were handed in and referred this morning. It is the desire of many members of the Constitutional Convention to adjourn on Thursday. Its labors will certainly not extend beyond the week.

The Constitution will be a more radical Free

State document than that of Topeka. Several of the reports were from the Topeka Constitution, but with little change. Wherever a change has been made, or a new article submitted, the new feature indicated a more radical Free-State sentiment. The prominent features of the new Constitution, so far as indicated, are: Strong declarations in the Bill of Rights in relation to human liberty: woman's right to property: short legislative terms; equalization of legislative and Senatorial representation; single representative districts; close restrictions on special legislation; three ways of amending the Constituion, so as to facilitate its amendment: Slavery ex-cluded. The schedule provides for submitting the Constitution to a vote of the people on the third Tuesday in May next. It provides for the election of State officers at the same time. It also provides for the location of the capital by the vote of the people. Another feature of the schedule provides that if Kansas shall be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution, this Constitution shall go into immediate force upon its ratification by the people. This latter is a most significant feature. It is a deliberate and calm provision against a probable contingency. It provides a mode of extrication, and makes that mode the duty of the State officers if a majority of the people of Kansas ratify the Constitution. This feature was introduced as an amendment by Mr. Winchell of Wyandot, who belongs to the Conservative, and which has been called the Anti-Topeka

Such are the features of the Convention so far. Such is the character of the Constitution that will be such is the character of the Constitution in the in-dication of that popular sentiment which now exists, and which, sooner or later, will assert its supremacy, unless the character of representative

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

Remer its Ruler and its Institutions. By John Francis Maruira, M. P. Izno, pp. Gl. D. k.J. Sadlier & Co.
Prayers for the Use of Families. By Albert Barnes. 12mo. pp.
50. Philadelphia: Charles Desilver.
Intellines: Salust. By Thomas Clark. 12mo. pp. 503. The Same. ical and Progressive Latin Grammar. By Thomas Clark.

The Hero Mis-founty; or, a History of the Labors of the Rev. Engenis Kincald. By Alfred S. Patton. 12mo. pp. 512. H.

The Hero Mis fomary; cr., a History of the Labor, on the Engenic Kinesia. By Alired S. Patton. Plano, pp. 512. H. Bayten.

Series, Pinna pp. 142. Ticknor & Fields.
Adelet A Tale. By Jolia Kayamagh. Three vols. in one. 12mo. pp. 574. D. Appleton & C. History of the Republic of the United States. By John C. History of the Inductive Sciences. By William Whowell, D. D. The Same.

History of the Inductive Sciences. By William Whowell, D. D. Tre Garden, A Pocket Manual of Practical Horticulture. 12mo. pp. 164. Fowler & Wells.

The Garden, A Pocket Manual of Practical Horticulture. 12mo. pp. 164. Fowler & Wells.

Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles. By Horatic B. Hackett, D. D. New Edition. Evo. pp. 420. Boston. Good & Lincoln. New York: Sheldon, Blakeman & Co. A Biographical Staten of Sir Henry Hawdock. By the flev. William Brock. 12mo. pp. 303. Robert Carter & Brothers.

Somebody sends us a copy of an official notification addressed by the Private Secretary of the Governor of me of our larger States, and couched in these words:

Sir: You was nominated by the Governor, and have been confirmed by the Senate," &c. We dare say this is sent to us for grammatical correction which it sadly needs. Both his Excellency and his Private Secretary surely ought to be aware of the good old rule that " The verb must agree with its nominstive case in number and person."

SUCKING UP WATER FROM SAND.-Livingstone, the the African traveler, describes an ingenious method by which the Africans obtain water in the desert:

which the Africans obtain water in the desert:

"The women tie a bunch of grass to one end of a reed, about two feet long, and insert it in a hole dug deep as the arm will reach, then ran down the wet sand firmly around it. Applying the mouth to the free end of the reed, they form a vacuum in the grass beteath, in which the water collects, and in a short time rises to the mouth. It will be perceived that this simple, but traily philosophical and effectual method, might have been applied in many cases, in different countries where water was greatly needed, to the saving of life. It seems wonderful that it should have been now first made known to the world, and that it should have been habitually practiced in Africa probably for centuries. It seems worthy of being particularly noticed, that it may no longer be neglected from ignorance. It may be highly important to travelers on our Western deserts and prairies, in some parts of which water is known to exist below the surface."

## THE RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.

HOW THE WORK PROGRESSES

THE PRAYER-MEETINGS IN THE CITY. The different prayer meetings in the city are still at-

tended by large crowds, though there is no one place where the people gather in such masses as they did at Burton's old theatre, while it was open. Several new meetings have been opened in different portions of the the city. A business men's prayer-meeting was opened on Monday at No. 69 Broadway, which is continued daily at 31 o'clock in the afternoon. Tale meeting is mostly attended by merchants and business men from Wall street and that vicinity. On the first day there were from two to three hundred present, and on the second day the attendance was nearly doubled. A great solemnity and seriousness seems to pervade the meetings.

In the Reformed Dutch Church in Falton street, on Thursday, there were three prayer-meetings at the same hour in different rooms on as many different floore of the building. The two lower rooms were floors of the building. The two lower rooms were crowded to overflowing, so that persons to get a seat had to go to the room at the top of the building, which was soon filled with a goodly number. The meeting in the upper room was conducted by Mr. J. C. Holoss. A gentleman in this upper meeting stated that this was the original room where the prayer-meetings were first held. It was here in this "upper room" that, six menths ago, they gathered for prayer, and then they could only get three persons to meet together, and had to wait a long time even for them. But now there was not room chough to hold those who wished to come; and we might look all over the country and see prayer meetings every where crowded, and we should

was not room enough to hold those who washed come; and we might look all over the country and see prayer meetings every where crowded, and we should thank God for what our eyes now see.

Prayer and the singing of a hymn followed.

Another gentleman stated that he beard a very interesting experience of a man in Philadelphia a few days since, of an old man, who had been well known in that city, bearing a character somewhat similar to that which "Awinl Gardner" formerly bore in this city. The old man, in reasting his experience, said that for years his conduct had been wicked to an extent which no one but himself could imagine; all this while a good wife at home had been praying for him. At last his troubled mind drove him to the prayer-meeting, and from one meeting to another till at last he found that peace which he sought while at work at his lathe. He wanted to say to that meeting that as long assuch men as "old Joe Bryant" could find a Savior, there is hope for any one, no matter how ering and lost they may appear.

Prayer was offered and a hymn was sung. Prayer was effered and a symm was sung. A gentleman stated that a friend of his, who had just arrived from Nebraska, told him that the spirit of God was being poured out in that Territary in a wonderful manner, and that at every place at which they stopped between Nebraska, and this city, they found

stopped between Nebraska and this city, they found an overflowing prayer-meeting.

Another gentieman stated that we all had talents of some kind, some one, and some ten, and we should all use the talents we have, use them in our every-day life for the glory of God. He citea the case of a man who had a large farm, but who was out at the elbows, and in debt. One day a missionary called upon him and told him he ought to change his course and begin to serve the Lard. It made such an impression upon him that the next day he marked out a piece of land and consecrated it to the Lord. From that hour he prospered, and all went well with him.

A gentleman at the end of the room asked the prayers of the meeting for himself and two of his friends.

Prayer was accordingly offered. Another hymn was then sung, the Rev. Dr. Wood pronounced the benediction, and the meeting was dismissed.

The meeting on the second floor was conducted by Mr. John A. Grav; this room was crowded to overflowing, a great many persons standing in the door-

Mr. John A. Gray; this room was crowded to over-flowing, a great many persons standing in the door-way and passage. The Rev. Dr. Schauffeler of Con-stantinople made some remarks in reference to this Revival being preciminently the work of the laity. He said that in Constantinople mon who were so ignorant that scarcely any one would employ them, would still go out and tell of a Savior to their fellows, and thus they were the means of saving many souls. He said go out and tell of a Savior to their fellows, and thus they were the means of saving many souls. He said that laymen might be likened to the horses who draw the load, and the pastor might be called the driver. The pastor would direct and encourage, but he could not draw the load.

Among the requests for prayer at this meeting was

Among the requests for prayer at this inecting was
the following:

"Remember in prayer a family of 12, who, from oldest to
youngest, are all living quite carcless and indifferent regarding
their souls salvation—prayer that they may be enabled to see
their sins, the danger of the life they are leading, and flee unto
Jesus as their sure refuse."

After some other remarks, with prayer and singing,
the neeting was dismissed.

At the John-Street Business Men's Meeting on Thurs-

day afternoon, a large crowd was gathered. It had been reported that the Rev. H. W. Beecher would lead the meeting, but just before the commencement of the services a gentleman from the Plymouth Church of the services a gentleman from the Plymouth Church said that it was utterly impossible for Mr. Beecher to be present, and explained the reasons. The Rev. Mr. HARRIS conducted the meeting in Mr. Beecher's stead. The exercises were commenced by singing the 161st Hymn. Mr. Harris read the 13th chapter of Coriotians, and then read several requests for prayer, among others one as follows:

"An aged mother desires the prayers of God's people in behalf of a win for whom she has been praying for 20 years."

Mr. Harris then offered prayer, and was followed.

of a son for whom she has been praying for 20 year.

Mr. Harkits then offered prayer, and was followed in prayer by a gentleman at the side of the room.

Then the 134th Hymn was sung, "When I survey

the wondrous Cross."

A gentleman said he wished to ask one question of those who were sinners—the simple one, "Why will those who were sinners—the simple one, "Why will ye die?" It is a question all would have to answer in

ye die l' It is a question all would have to answer in a different form at the Judgment Seat. He wished all to make up the answer to that question to-day.

A young man said he had been deeply impressed with the responsibility of Christians by hearing of the death of one who said, "Why did not some friend warn me?" He urged sinners to come to the Savior

Mr. HARRIS said that one of the strongest collateral Mr. Harms said that one of the strongest collateral evidences we have of Christian faith is the diversity of character which is seen in these meetings, all assening to one truth. Persons might have differences, but when the love of Christ, which is practical Christianity, is shed abroad in the heart, all these differences mingle in affinity with this great record. Nine years ago he was a strict attendant upon the Jewish Synagogue. In his boyhood he was taught, if he saw the name of Jeeus in a book, to acratch it out if possible, or put his firger on it. He looked upon Christ as the author of all the calantities that had fallen on his nation, and on Christians as his enemies. One of the first things that turned him toward the Christian Church was the singing. But he would not take any more time.

more time. The 111th hymn was sung. A gentleman who "hailed from the rural districts" had a day or two before attended a prayer-meeting where the farmers left their plows and came five miles

attend a prayer-meeting.
Upon invitation quite a number rose for prayer and a few minutes were spent in silent prayer.

A young man in the gallery said he was an evidence of the efficiency of a mother's prayers; any one who had a praying mother had great reason to

pe. A gentleman in the body of the house said we had cause to rejoive; we always rejoice when in any dis-aster, persons are saved from among the ruins, but we must not stop work; for there were more under the ruins yet to be saved. We put our ears to the ruins and hear them crying for help. Do we stand still or do we make an effort to save them? We do not spend do we make an enort to save them? We do not spend our time rejecting over the one that is saved, but we try to save the rest. What are we doing! Are we clearing away the rubbish? The command, "Go work in my vineyard," is for all, in the Church and out of the Church. It is not alone for pastors of churches, but for all.

The 141st Hymn was then sung.

The 141st Hymn was then sung.

A ger tleman said that this was the first time he had had the peasure of attenoing this meeting. In Mannehester, N. H., they had similar meetings of great interest. At one of them, when the minister preached from the text, "Go out and bring in the lame, the halt, "and the bind," a young lady went out and at the next meeting she brought in four young ladies; and in a short time three out of the four were converted.

Another gentleman said that a few years ago he went out into a neighboring district, where they were unable to have any singing at the meeting; there was present a very intemperate man who said: "If I could sing as "well as I can swear, I would make this schoolhouse "ring." That man had a wife and a mother who had prayed for him for 20 years, and this Winter he had come to the Cross, a converted man; and a few days

one to the Cross, a converted man; and a few days ice he signed the temperance pledge.

The closing bynn, "Rock of ages cleft for me," was

Mr. HARRIS pronounced the benediction, and the

PRAYER-MEETING AT STUYVESANT INSTI-TUTE.

This meeting might properly be called a young men's meeting, as it is carried on by a few young men, who are not connected with any particular society or person. They hold a meeting daily from 5 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon, a time which is very convenient for many. The meeting yesterday was conducted by the Rev. Mr. HATFIELD, who commenced the services by reading

from the 13th chapter of Corinthians, which was followed by the singing of the 198th Hymn, "Had I the "tongues of Greeks and Jews." Mr. Hatfield effered prayer. The 125th Hymn was then sung, "Jesus, "Sayior of my soil." As

Savior of my soul, Ac. Mr. HATFIELD said that a few months ago it might Mr. Hatrikln said that a few months ago it might have been necessary to make some suggestions with regard to the order of these meetings, but now we had all been to so many, we all knew the way in which they were carried on. If this meeting was not so large as some others, it was no reason why it should not prove interesting to us. The Savior has promised that where two of three even are gathered together, He will be with them. God has assured us that He will hear cur prayers, and He is ready and whing to answer.

An elderly gentleman said the chapter read was a An enderly gentleman said the chapter reid was a very important one. That principle there called "charty" was love—true love to God. Without the we are naught, though we may do all manner of good works, and even give our bodies to be burned. This love is to be obtained only through the Lord Jeeus Christ, as the foundation by which it is infused into the heart.

Christ, as the foundation by which it is infused into the heart.

The Lied Hymn was then sung. Prayers were requested for two widows and their families; and two prayers were offered in their behalf.

A clergyman said that sometime ago a minister rose in his pulpit, and said he could not pray, as he had lost his prayer-book. As he was not in the hebit of reading prayers, his people were actoriched; upon inquiry, he told them his congregation was his prayer-book, and they seemed to have lost the spirit of prayer. God be praised, our prayer-books are now restored to us, and this is one evidence that this work is from God.

The 141st Hymn was then sung, when the Rev. Dr.

is from God.

The 141st Hymn was then sung, when the Rev. Dr.

McCLAY, "Father McClay," as he is called, rose and
said, that it gave him great pleasure to meet his young
friends here, and to see the young actively engaged
for Christ, "This is as it should be. We find when
Christ called one disciple, that disciple went and called
his brother, saying, "We have found the Messian."
Now we want young men to act on the same principle his brother, saying. We have found the Alessan. Now we want young men to act on the same principle—invite your young friends in here. God is in our city and among our churches throughout the land. Jesus says, "Come to me all ye that are he may lader, and I will give you rest; perhaps there are some here who are laboring under a burden of sin; if so let me urge you to come to Christ and you shall find rest. This is a time when consciences er; aroused and sinters begin to feel their need of a Savior. I believe I tim the oldest minister now in the city; I have preached in this city 53 years; I have visited every State in the Union but three, most of them many times; I have visited England, Scotland, Iraland, Wales, Germany and Denmark twice in the last 20 years, and I bless God that I have lived to see this revival. I have seen many, but never one so deeply interesting as this.

Mr. Hattikub said; There is only one more interesting spectacle than to see a young person consecrate.

Mr. Halvikld said: There is only one more interesting spectacle than to see a young person consecrate himself to God in the spring-time of life, and that is to see an eld man, well stucken in years, whose gray hairs are a crown of glory to bim, standing forth like a shock of grain, ripe and ready to be gathered into the garner of God. He then invited any who desired special prayers to rise. Two persons rose, and prayers were offered.

A young man, whose eyes were full of tears, and whose sobs almost checked his utterance, said he wished to thank God for Hr goodness, in braiging him back to Himself. He had strayed from the fold, but now he hoped he should be enabled to stand fast. He wished the brethren to pray for him. Two gentlemen prayed.

Me wished the officers of the vast amount of wickedness in this city; and said that the young men must be the ones to meet and overcome it.

The concluding hymn, the 200th, was song, and Father McCl.xx dismissed the meeting with the bene-

THE GREENWICH-ST, PRAYER-MEETING.

This meeting was very fully attended yesterday; it was conducted by Mr. Nostrum, a sea-captain. There have been over a dozen conversions at this meeting within the last two weeks.

UNITED CHRISTIAN EFFORT IN NEW-YORK The undersigned would respectfully ask the attention of their brethren to the following facts and proposed

resolutions. At the request of laymen, five of our number invited a meeting of pastors and laymen, at the Spingler Institute, on the evening of the 234 of March, to consider in effect the best method of perpetuating the present providential union of the Churches in efforts to save souls. At that meeting William E. Dolge, esq., was appointed Chairman, and the Hon. C. C. Leigh, Secretary. The unanimous feeling was that nothing should be attempted without the gravest consideration, and after harmonious consultation the subject was committed to the undersigned, with instructions to report at an adjourned meeting.

The Committee, of course, did not regard themselves as in any official sense representatives of their respective denominations, but in submitting anything to the consideration of their brethren, they deemed it their duty to give precedence to all the authorized eterprises of the Churches, and suggest only what would clearly of the Churches, and suggest only what would clearly harmonize with those enterprises, and vigorously sustain them. They believed that, beside the moral power which each and all the denominations have in their separate action, there is a special force in their unity, and the outward expression of that unity, in some strong evangalical labors for the salvation of those not already reached by the established means of grace. It was felt that this joint power had, in the late Revival, received a providential development and direction, which it was the manifest duty of the Churches

rection, which it was the manifest duty of the Chardenes to recegnize and perpetuate.

The Committee, therefore, prepared and presented to the meeting held at the Spirgler Institute on the evening of the 7th inst., the following resolutions. After a free discussion the undersigned were requested to publish the proposed resolutions, and after time suf-dicient for a general and thorough examination of the subject, to call a meeting for full discussion and final

REPORT. The Committee to whom were referred certain resolutions and questions, in relation to the united efforts of the different denominations to advance the Redeem-

of the different denominations to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, particularly in the City of New York, would respectfully submit the following for the consideration of the meeting:

1. Resolved, That it is desirable to perpetuate the present Providential union of the Churches in efforts to save soils.

2. That all measures for that purpose should be accessive to the enterprises of the established Churches.

3. That in our judgment there are, in different parts of our city, important fields for the saided efforts of the esuguidal Church, where the people are not supplied with the preschag of the Gorpel, or have not been induced to actend the regular church services.

services.

4. That a Committee of ministers and laymen, from each of the denominations interested, be named by this receting, to whom the supervision of this interest rhail be committed. They shall have power to fill their own vacancies, and to increase their numbers.

have power to fill their own wavanides, and to increase their numbers.

5. That the churches can be united in additional efforts for the salvation of socis by opening and sustaining pieces of worship, where they are needed, for the benefit of the destitute; that the selection of such places, and the mode of accommodating the services, are intrusted to the Committee, who shall, in all their arrangements, conform strictly to the second resolution.

6. That we recommend to the Committee to purchase and fit up a tent, which may be located at different times in such places as they shall deem best for the purposes specified; that they are mosted to provide preaching in such tent, at least once on the Sabbath, by ministers of the different evangelical denominations, alternating as registry as practicable; and they may establish Sunday Schools, and appoint union prayer-meetings and other resignors services, whenever, in their judgment, it can be done in conformity to the principles herein asserted.

7. The Committee may provide for and secure, if they deem it judicious, a Missionary, who shall, under their direction, take charge of the tent and other places opened, preach when and where he is directed, wist the poor and the slock, and as far as may be, any who are without pastoral care; and de such other work, properly belonging to this enterprise, as the Committee their directivation to

held direct.

3. That we will sustain the Committee in their application to noiviously for funds; that in all cases strict economy shall be sed, and all experses shall be provided for in advance.

3. That, as a method of preserving the fruits of the labor, all case who hear no shall be urged to attend the regular church revices in their neighborhood, and, when prepared, to joins the even relical churches as may be most in accordance with all over their neighborhoods.

Repper finity unhandited.

di own views. Respectivity submitted, J. T. Peck, John Dowling, O. Icever, S. D. Buchard, T. L. Guyler, J. M. Krebe, Wan, edge, John R. Ludlow, Wm. C. Gilman, Mahlon T. Hesse orace Holden, C. C. Leigh, Committee.

FACTS AND INCIDENTS.

Accounts from all parts of the country indicate that he Revival is increasing, especially in the Northern and Western States. The prayer-meetings in all the arge cities are increasing in number, and are crowded to overflowing daily.

In Circinnati, every hour in the day has its pray

In Circinnait, every hour in the day has its prayermeeting, commencing at sucrise and ending at bedtime. At a Union prayer-meeting held at the First
Presbyterian Church in that city a few days since,
Prof. O. M. Mitchell, opened the services by reading
a portion of the 164th Psalm and Christ's Sermon of
the Mount. Near the close of the services Bishop
McIlvaine of the Episcopal Church, arose and advanced to the alter. The Times says: "There was a
"stiffness throughout the entire congregation as he
did so every one seemingly anxious to hear every
"word which should drop from the eloquent prelate's
"hys."

lips."
The following is a portion of his address: The following is a portion of his address:

"Brutings and Parkness My official dulies have prevented no from being present at any ot these meetings until this morning. In experience in religious matters, including the great flavival of the present century, I have, perhaps the advantage of the great majority of this was necessary, extending back, as it does, as it flay for years. I must say that the present derival is executely effected from all others that I have witnessed in that